Limited, a private company for exploration and production of oil;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a deviation from the accepted policy of Government in this field; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons to change the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Pre-budget price rise of TELCO model of vehicles

*246. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a pre-budget price rise of the TELCO model of vehicles by about Rs. 17,000/- from 21st January, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a protest from the Truck Owners Association; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Effective from 21st January 1989 M/s. TELCO Ltd., have increased prices of their truck and bus chassis by Rs. 11,900/ and Rs. 10,800/- respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is no statutory price control on automobiles. The price increase effected by the manufacturers is mainly due to the increase in the prices of various inputs required for the manufacture of the vehicles.

Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi

*247. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Process Treatment Plant and Sewage Plant built to clean the dirty water of Heavy Engineering Plant, Ranchi at a cost of about Rs. 20 crore are not working since their inception;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not commissioning these plants and what steps are being taken for their working; what are their working hours/days per month as at present;

(c) whether it is also a fact that an electric generator has been installed to run these plants and, as reported, the transformer has been missing since long; whether any investigation has been made into it; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The transformer of the Process Treatment Plant was damaged in October 1988 due to pilferage. However, the work was managed by using the standby diesel generator. An F.I.R. has been lodged with the Police.

Plant load factor of State Electricity Boards and their accumulated losses

*248. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the improvement or deterioration in the plant load factor of power stations of electricity boards in various States and in the centrally managed power stations during the last one year; and